Appendix A

Copy of Claims as Amended as of August 23, 2001

1.   (Amended) A [computer] system in a network conferencing environment for delivering a plurality of video or audio signals, the system comprising:

a plurality of transmitters for transmitting a set of data streams onto a network, where the set of data streams is generated from the plurality of video or audio signals and at least one of the transmitters includes a silence suppressor for removing silences or background from the data streams of the audio signals transmitted by the said at least one transmitter; and

at least one receiver for receiving the set of data streams from the network and recovering the data streams into audio or video signals, the receiver including a demultiplexer for dynamically selecting a subset of the set of data streams and two or more receiver payload handler modules and two or more corresponding decoder modules for handling and decoding two or more types of the data streams.

2.   (Twice Amended) The [computer] system of claim 1 wherein one of the payload handler modules handles audio G.711data and another handlers G.723.1 data and one or more of the decoder modules decodes audio G.711 data and another decodes audio G.723.1 data.

21.   (Twice Amended) A network conferencing system comprising:

a [an] real-time transport protocol (RTP) compliant demultiplexer that is adapted for:

receiving a plurality of RTP compliant data streams from a network;

dynamically selecting a portion of the RTP data streams; [and]

routing one or more RTP data streams of the portion based on data type;

two or more receiver payload handler modules coupled to the demultiplexer for handling routed data streams;

two or more decoder modules coupled to the demultiplexer for decoding data; and

a rendering module coupled to the decoder for playing back one or more RTP data streams.

24.   (Amended) A computerized conference system comprising:

receiving means for receiving, via a communications network, respective first and second sets of [audio] data of respective first and second data types from respective first and second conference participants;

first and second decoder modules for respectively decoding the first and second types of [audio] data; [and]

means for routing data received by receiving means to the first or the second decoder module based on data type;

means for determining whether one or more of the first and second sets of [audio] data is associated with an inactive conference participant; and

means, responsive to determination of the inactive conference participant, for substituting a third set of data from a third conference participant, for at least the one of the first and second sets of [audio] data associated with the inactive conference participant.

32.   (Amended) A conferencing method comprising:

receiving a plurality of [audio] data streams from a corresponding plurality of conference participants;

selecting a subset of the plurality of [audio] data streams;

rendering the selected subset of [audio] data streams; [.]

determining whether one or more of the first and second audio data streams is associated with an inactive conference participant; and

substituting a third [audio] data stream from a third conference participant, for at least the one of the first and second [audio] data streams determined to be associated with the inactive conference participant.

33.   (Amended) The method of claim 32, wherein the selected subset [of audio data steams] includes a first audio data stream formatted according to a first protocol and a second audio data stream formatted according to a second protocol.

34.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the selected subset includes a first video data stream formatted according to a first protocol and a second video data stream formatted according to a second protocol.

35.   (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the data streams in the selected subset are most recently activate data steams.

36.   (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the first and second sets of data are audio signal data.